

Response: Claim 16 is patentably distinguishable from the references. Claim 16 is directed to a laundry tub liquid dispensing system having a storage unit for storing household liquids above the laundry tub. A normally closed rotatable control is provided which has a resiliently biased closed position. Fletcher et al discloses a dishwasher having a storage unit for storing a dry dishwasher detergent which is aligned with a sink. The dry dishwasher detergent is mixed with water in the storage unit (col. 3, lines 12-14) and discharged through an outlet. A rotatable control is provided which is manually opened and manually closed. Pollock et al discloses an apparatus having a liquid storage unit below a sink with a rotatable control that is manually opened and manually closed. Fletcher et al and Pollock et al are patentably distinguishable from claim 16 by the following differences. Fletcher et al stores and mixes a dry dishwashing detergent with water in a storage unit which is aligned with a sink. Pollock et al has a storage unit below a sink. Neither Fletcher et al nor Pollock et al have controls which are normally closed. Neither Fletcher et al nor Pollock et al have resiliently biased controls. Neither Fletcher et al nor Pollock et al disclose a motivation for combining the references nor if combined result in an equivalent structure.

Page 2, lines 17-19:

Rejection: "Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Fletcher et al in view of Pollock et al as set forth in the rejection of claim 16 above, and further in view of Hardy and Davidson.”

Response: These claims are patentably distinguishable from the references. Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, and Davison by the positive limitation of a liquid storage unit above a laundry tub. Fletcher et al discloses a dry detergent storage unit aligned with a sink. Pollock et al discloses a liquid dispensing system with a storage unit below a sink. Davison discloses a liquid storage unit below a bathroom shower head. Claim 1 is further patentably distinguishable from Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, Hardy and Davison by the positive limitation of a normally closed rotary valve for dispensing a mixture of a household liquid and water. Fletcher et al, Pollock et al and Davison disclose rotary valves with manual closed positions. Hardy discloses a linear valve. Claim 1 is further patentably distinguishable from Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, and Davison by the positive limitation of a resiliently biased valve.

Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, and Davison disclose valves which are not resiliently biased. Claim 1 is further distinguishable from Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, Hardy and Davison by the positive limitation of a valve in a lower portion of a container for automatically closing the container when said container is removed from a housing and for opening the container when said container is in the housing. Claim 1 is further

patentably distinguishable from Fletcher et al, Pollock et al, and Hardy by the positive limitation of a removable container in a housing for storing a household liquid. Neither Fletcher et al, nor Pollock et al, nor Hardy, nor Davison disclose a motivation for combining the references.

Nor can the references be combined as the Examiner contends to reject claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). For example, how can the spring biased linear valve of Hardy be combined with the rotary valve of Fletcher et al?

Since claims 2, 4, 12, 14, and 15 depend from claim 1, they are patentably distinguishable from the references for the same reasons as claim 1. Independent claim 17 includes the same positive limitations as claims 1 and 16 and is patentably distinguishable from the applied references for the same reasons as claims 1 and 16.

Independent claim 26 is patentably distinguishable from the references by the following positive limitations. A storage unit is mounted above a laundry tub. The storage unit is in remote relationship to the laundry tub and a removable container is provided in the storage unit for storing a household liquid product. A valve is provided in a lower portion of the container for preventing the household liquid from flowing out of the container when the container is removed from the storage unit and allowing the liquid to flow out of the container when the container is installed in the storage unit. Fletcher et al discloses a dry detergent storage unit aligned with a sink. Pollock et al discloses a liquid

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storage unit below a sink. Davison discloses a liquid storage unit below a bathroom shower head. Neither Fletcher et al, nor Pollock et al, nor Hardy, nor Davison disclose a valve in a lower portion of a removable container for preventing a household liquid from flowing out of the container when the container is removed from a storage unit and for allowing the liquid to flow out of the container when the container is installed in the storage unit. Since claim 27 depends from claim 26, claim 27 is patentably distinguishable from the references for the same reasons as claim 26.

Claim 28 is patentably distinguishable from the references by the positive limitations of a storage unit mounted above a laundry tub in remote relationship to the laundry tub for storing a pair of household liquids, a resiliently biased normally closed control for selecting one of the household liquids to mix with water, a control having a manual first operative position for mixing the household liquid with water, a manual second operative position for mixing the other of the household liquids with said water and a resiliently releasably biased closed position. Neither Fletcher et al, nor Pollock et al, nor Hardy, nor Davison disclose a liquid dispensing system with these positive limitations. Nor do the references provide motivation for adopting Applicant's features.

Page 3, lines 6-7:

Rejection: "Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art

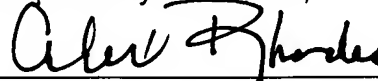
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as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Greenhut et al."

Response: Claim 5 is patentably distinguishable from the references because of two reasons. First, since claim 5 is dependent on claim 1, claim 5 is patentably distinguishable for the same reasons as claim 1. Neither Fletcher et al, nor Pollock et al, nor Hardy, nor Davison suggest nor provide any motivation for including a needle valve to regulate the quantity of household fluid introduced into a laundry tub water supply.

For the above reasons, it is believed that this application is in a condition to be passed for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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